The Tribune-Star

* Schools (VC) - Blackhawk

Ninth in the Series

November 29, 1991

Community Affairs File
Vigo County Public Library

Remember . . . Blackhawk

1816 1991 TERRE HAUTE Celebrating 175 Years

Blackhawk Athlete
Gene Bunch

Blackhawk Teacher
Mae Taylor

Blackhawk Alumnus
Paul Scamihorn

Don't miss our Blackhawk TRIVIA CONTEST INSIDE!

INSIDE . . .

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Tenth in Series Coming DEC. 27: Remember . . . Glenn

May Day royalty

It always reigned on May Day in Blackhawk. That is, somebody always reigned over the festivities of the day. In 1950, the Chieftains' royalty included Queen Barbara Crable, Freshman Attendent Patty Coffer, Sophomore Attendent Alice Loveall, Junior Attendent Barb Edmunds and Senior Attendent Deloris McGrew.

Check the schedule to find your school

Fontanet High School marks the seventh publication in what has grown from an original schedule of 12 special sections about Vigo County's schools to a total of 23 monthly issues.

Check the schedule below to see when your school will be featured. We'll need people to serve on committees to tell us what makes your school unique, its history, the traditions and activities that took place there, and photographs.

A special note about photographs: Original photos are preferred because they reproduce better than those from newspapers, magazines or yearbooks. If possible, please send photocopies of the photographs you have. We'll call you for a copy of the original if we think we can use it.

Also, please do not assume The Tribune-Star has a copy of a particular photo on file.

If you want to serve on a committee, or if you have items you think we might be able to use, write: The Tribune-Star, Remember (your school's name), P.O. Box 149, Terre Haute, Ind. 47808.

Schools that remain to be featured and the dates of publication are:

Glenn	Dec. 27, 1991
Riley	Jan. 31, 1992
Concannon	Feb. 28, 1992
Valley	March 27, 1992
Fayette	April 24, 1992
Prairie Creek	May 29, 1992
Pimento	June 26, 1992
West Vigo	July 31, 1992
North Vigo	Aug. 28, 1992
South Vigo	Sept. 25, 1992
ISU	Oct. 30, 1992
Rose-Hulman	Nov. 27, 1992
St. Mary's	Dec. 25, 1992
Ivy Tech	Jan. 29, 1993

The deadline to submit items for any school is by the first of the month in which publication will occur.

Thanks are in order for Blackhawk folks

Blackhawk Chieftons came through this month with photos, letters and information about their alma mater.

Committee members included Barb Van Gilder, Genie Pound, Vernon Pound, Oris Campbell and Dale Cottom.

There also were a host of others who wrote in and who went scrambling for information when called upon.

Thanks to all of you — and those whose names we may have left out — for all of your assistance.

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1954 grad shares precious memories of her 12 years at Blackhawk School

By Carolyn Roberts Thorne
Special to The Tribune-Star

Remember ... there is so much to remember and not enough time nor space to record it all.

Let's begin at first grade. First grade is a scary time for little ones, but as soon as I get on that bus and meet the cheerful driver, all is better. His daughter takes me by the hand and helps me through the day. Many tears are shed ... I do not like school. But I sure do like the bus driver. Thanks to Arley Long for helping me make it!

Second grade. My grandmother dies and I am only seven years old and have always lived with her and my grandfather. But my teacher knows me and all about me and helps me through the second grade. Thanks Mary Phegley!

Third grade ... what else can happen? You see, I still do not like school except maybe to run around the school at recess on the black cinder drive. Yes, tragedy does strike again. The year is 1945, and my mother dies at the age of 31. A very sad time. But back to school and — if I must say as I look back — this is a very special Blackhawk. What if I had been in a big, big school and maybe lost in the shuffle? Again, my teacher helps me along. My first day back at school after my mother died, she put her arms around me and gave me a big hug. Then said, "I will just have to be your mother." Thanks, Helen Westerman!

Seventh grade ... what a special time. Junior High. Algebra ... no, don't like it either, but a very special teacher spends lots of time explaining. Thanks, Mr. Feiss!

A very special home ec teacher appears on the scene. She is not only a good teacher, but becomes a best friend to us girls. Thanks, Violet Crow! Loved every minute of your class!

Time to remember science class and "Lefty" Kruzan who was also the coach at that time. What a class. We were seated in alphabetical order. Thanks to Betty Richey and Larry Ray.

The years roll on ... Time to choose some lifetime friends. Can you believe the six of us have been together since first grade? Thanks for the friendship, Charlotte, Linda, Mary Alice, Barbara and Phyllis.

So many special times, we cannot put into words. Remember decorating the study hall tree? ... Remember playing Honey Creek and Farmersburg and Pimento? Remember winning any ballgames? ... Remember Mrs. Heady always standing in front of her class door? Remember all the Longs who drove the busses — Arley, Chuck and Vince? Remember making our first pie in home ec? Remember spending the whole lunch hour talking with Mr. and Mrs. Sankey? ... Remember the disgusted look on Bill Ray's face at the loss of another game? ... Remember Dorothy Pound who manned the school office? Remember when the school got food poisoning and we were laying all over the schoolyard? Remember the Adkins Studio from Clay City that came to take all the pictures? Remember the shady lawn out front where we could sit on the grass and just talk?

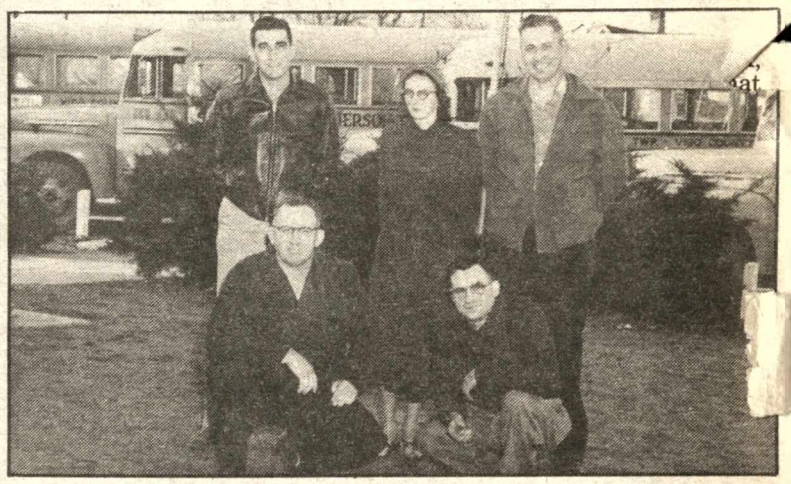
Of course we all remember and we will never forget. High school has to be a great time. Junior and Senior Proms and decorations. Working to sell candy and popcorn for the Senior Trip.

Senior year arrives. What a special time. Engagement rings are appearing on senior girls' fingers. Plans are in the making. College, working, marriage. But some tears are shed on that May night in 1954 as we decorate the new gym and stage for that final event.

I went before my graduating class that night with this thought: "Forward Ever, Backward Never." I said "Thanks" to all the teachers, parents, guardians and everyone who made that night possible.

That was 37 years ago and tonight, as I write this, I want to say my memories of Blackhawk are fond. I am so thankful to have been a part of it and I am thankful for the memories and the lessons learned there.

Note: Carolyn Roberts Thorne is a member of Blackhawk's Class of 1954, where she was editor of the school newspaper and assistant editor of the yearbook.



Strolling down memory lane

Bus drivers Jerry Armstrong and Vince Long in the first row, and Max Blaker, Wanda Long and Paul Armstrong in the second row, pictured in the top photo, helped get the children to school on time. In the bottom photo is the school newspaper staff which consisted of Carolyn Roberts, Linda Ellis, Mary Scarbrough, Phyllis Mullens, Evelyn Hauser, Phyllis Hostetler, Jim Campbell, Larry Ray, Doyne Jeffers, Joan Price, Dorothy Little, Charlotte Long and the faculty sponsor, Mrs. Price.

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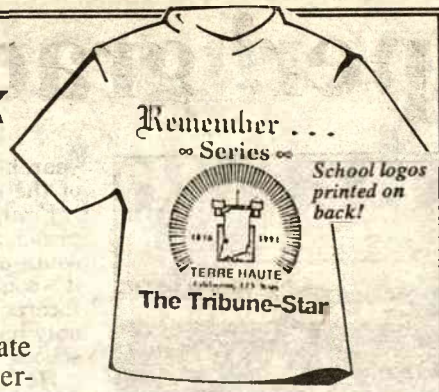
Blackhawk Trivia Contest



Remember your high school days as you celebrate Terre Haute's 175th anniversary in style with a souvenir t-shirt featuring school logos on back. Here's all you have to do to enter:

Write your name, address and telephone number, along with the answers to all 10 trivia questions listed below, on a 3 x 5 card and send it to: **The Tribune-Star, Blackhawk Trivia, PO Box 149, Terre Haute, IN 47808.**

Five winners will be selected in a random drawing of correct responses. Winners will be notified by mail and will be listed in the **Remember . . . Glenn** issue on Dec. 27.

1) When did Paul Scamihorn teach at Blackhawk?
2) Who led Blackhawk's varsity basketball team in scoring in 1946?
3) Where did Mae Taylor take Lewis eighth-graders in 1931?
4) Who was "always standing in front of her class door?"
5) How did Blackhawk's original gym provide a "home-team advantage?"
6) What sports did Joe Williams teach in 1958?
7) Who was the May Day queen in 1950?
8) Who was Blackhawk's coach in 1925?
9) Who "manned" the school office in 1954?
10) Who coached the basketball champions?

WINNERS OF STATE HIGH TRIVIA CONTEST: Question one stumped lots of State High grads. The school was opened in 1935, but it wasn't *completed* until 1937. Only four entries were correct. And the winners are . . . Betty Richardson Paris of Harlingen, Texas; William H. Hunter, Jr. of Shelburn; Doris Tilford and Lois Leeth of Terre Haute.

'Mrs. Mae' earns students' respect, love — and votes

Her grandmotherly look and her kind, caring ways endeared Mrs. Mae Taylor — "Mrs. Mae" to her students — to many who passed through her classroom at Blackhawk School.

Mrs. Mae was — and is — special. So special, she overwhelmingly received the most votes as Blackhawk graduates' favorite teacher of all times.

"She was the perfect elementary teacher, in my mind, grandmotherly with white hair, and very gentle," says Mary Beth Wassel Eberwein.

"I was so excited when I got her for the third grade (after having her in the second grade) and quite disappointed when they took about 10 of us third-graders to be in a split class with second-graders.

"Mae is still living in Blackhawk and always greets me with that same grandmotherly air when I see her."

John Wesley Scamihorn remembers Mrs. Mae as his eighth-grade teacher in Lewis in 1931.

"For our graduation surprise, she took the class in a convertible to Dresser, Ind., for a midnight excursion," he wrote. "I have thought of it pleasurably for 60 years."

She gave "several generations of Blackhawk students in their first years of school ... a firm foundation for future learning," said Barbara Baker Hunt. "She was kind, patient, and encouraging with each child — a teacher who helped us realize the pleasures and rewards of reading, writing and arithmetic."

Mae Taylor

But the most endearing endorsement came not from a student, but from that student's mother, who called Mrs. Mae "the best teacher that ever entered a classroom."

It was Mrs. Mae's compassion that she recalled.

"My daughter, Ruby, was born with a handicap. She had a hard time changing to her tennis shoes for gym and putting on her overshoes and coat to go home and was made fun of because she was different.

"The first grade teacher said 'she was a teacher, not a baby sitter.'

"Being sensitive to her treatment, it was hard to keep [Ruby] in school.

"Mrs. Mae was her Sunday School teacher and saw our need. She rewarded each one in her class with a star each Sunday for every time they helped Ruby.

"When Ruby got in Mrs. Mae's second-grade class, she treated Ruby as she was special. She went out of her way to encourage Ruby to go to school.

"What we need today is more Mrs. Maes in the schoolroom. Those kind of teachers and people are hard to find.

"It takes a special person like Mrs. Mae to be a teacher. She's one in a million.

"Mrs. Wible, her third-grade teacher, was very nice and considerate to Ruby.

"If she (the first-grade teacher) had been more like Mrs. Mae and Mrs. Wible, [Ruby] wouldn't have lost so much school and could have graduated with the class she started with.

"We are forever thankful to Mrs. Mae for her consideration of Ruby in the first and second grades. God bless her (and Mrs. Wible) and all the other fine teachers like her."

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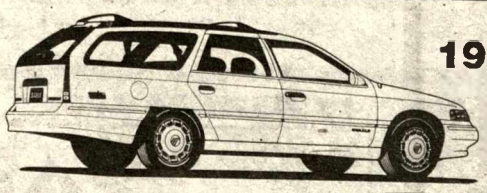

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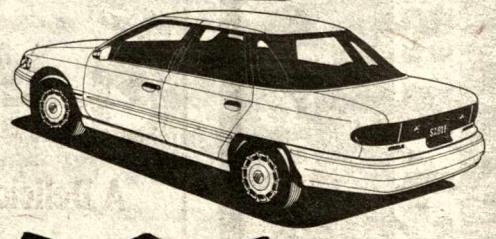

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Scamihorn became a 'super' graduate

Paul Scamihorn says he's "proud and happy" to have been selected as an outstanding alumnus of Blackhawk High School, but added, "I'm still mystified. Who am I?"

Speaking from his home in Demotte, in northwestern Indiana, Scamihorn recalled that it took him a few years after high school before he finally enrolled in college.

Money was a problem in the 1930s — Scamihorn graduated from Blackhawk in 1938 — so he dabbled in several fields.

"After high school, I hauled coal, then I went to Ohio and worked for an Indiana company that was building rural electrification."

That was followed by a 3½-year stint in the Civilian Conservation Corps, where he ended up as a mess sargeant. "I was in charge of all the food," he said.

His experience in the CCC came in handy when he entered the U.S. Army in November 1942. "I became a second mess sargeant in the Army, at a station hospital in Dalhart, Texas," he said. "In fact, I almost entered the Army as a sargeant."

Food preparation notwithstanding, he said Wednesday that he wasn't going to cook the Thanksgiving feast, except for the Waldorf salad. "My wife likes my Waldorf salad," he explained.

Between the CCC and the Army, he worked in the steel mills; after the Army, he took over his father's business for a little while, then went to work for Pfizer in early 1948.

It was later in 1948 that he entered Indiana State University at his wife's urging.

"My wife, Norma, said I had better things to do than to work at Pfizer. I got mad at her and went to college," he said. "I finished my bachelor of science in three years — I just never stopped."

Scamihorn became a teacher.

"I was going to be a coach, but everybody and his brother was going to be a coach," he said. "I said, 'the heck with that' and went over to math and science.

"I don't know why I went into teaching; I still don't know," he said.

His teaching career led him to the principal's office and, ultimately, to a superintendent's office.

His first teaching job was at his alma mater: Blackhawk. There, he taught math and science from the fall of 1951 through the spring of '55. During his last year, he was also acting principal of the school.

From there, he got his firs principal's job at Ashboro, jus south of Brazil. Like Blackhawk, it was a small school that incorporated all 12 grades. "We only had 35 students in the high school," he said.

He also taught "a couple of classes" at Ashboro — as he did at Cory and at Gosport.

Then, in 1961, he ascended to the superintendent's chair, in Clay County, where he remained until the county's schools reorganized in 1966. "After they reorganized, they didn't need me anymore," he said as he chuckled.

That's when he moved north, as principal at Honover Township School in Lake County. After its reorganization into the Hanover Community School System, he was its superintendent for 2½ years.

"Then I came to Kankakee Valley as assistant superintendent for one year, in 1971 and '72, then I became superintendent until I retired on Sept. 1, 1982," he said.

Retirement didn't last long, however.

"In 1985, I got a call from an old friend and became an actor," he said. "I was in eight musicals at the Bridge Vu Theater in Valparaiso."

His favorite? "Hello, Dolly. I played the grandfather. Until then, I had never sang a song in public in my whole life.

"That was an interesting three years. I got paid at first, then they started losing money and I ended up doing it for nothing."

Today, he and his wife live next door to their son, Mickel, his wife, Kathy, and their two grandsons, Drew, 8, and Brent, 2.

After a long life of working, it's finally time to sit back and enjoy the next generation.

Experimenting with science

Paul Scamihorn watches as one of the girls in his science class at Blackhawk High School conducts an experiment. Students in the class included Doyne Jeffers, Rita Archer, Patty Yaw, Bob White, Prevo Shoemaker, Barbara Harbaugh and Larry Ray.

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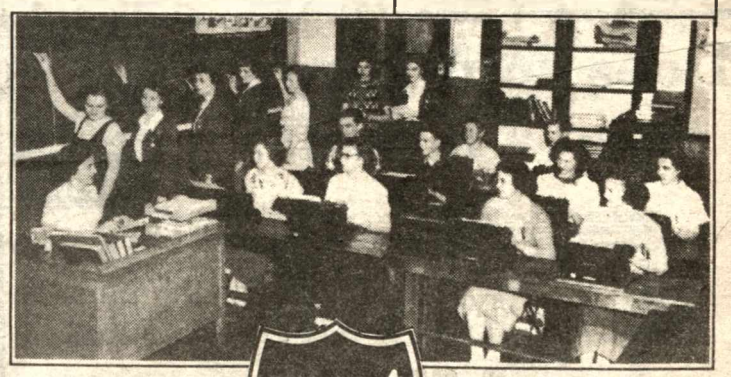

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Glen F. Price

CLASS OF 1919
Herman L. Boyle

CLASS OF 1915
Lawrence W. Larew

CLASS OF 1921
Thelma Sharpe-Haxton

CLASS OF 1925
Leslie O. Dean
Dorothy Larew-Park

CLASS OF 1926
Mae Taylor

CLASS OF 1928
Beulah Larew-Singhurse
Jim Rudisel
Valeska Taylor-Cassaday

CLASS OF 1931
Keith Payne

CLASS OF 1933
Paul R. Armstrong
Dale Cottom
Mary F. Knight-Gunnell
Eileen Myers-Hull

CLASS OF 1934
Edith Weddle-Morris

CLASS OF 1935
Oris Campbell
H. Virginia Copeland-Smith
Bob Hopewell
John W. Scamihorn
Mary Scamihorn-Wall

CLASS OF 1936
Joe S. Bottorff
Josephine Gurchiek-Schallaci

CLASS OF 1938
Raymond G. McCarty
In Memory of
Paul Edgar Morse

CLASS OF 1939
Wayne (Smiley) Ellis
Philip C. Greiner
Leon Hutchinson
In Memory of
Thelma R. Lawson-Hutchinson

CLASS OF 1940
Virginia Baker-Tryon
George Gurchiek
Virginia Rehmel-Liston

CLASS OF 1941
James Payne

CLASS OF 1942
Ruth Baker-Payne
Richard Collins
Margaret E. Crable-Chesterfield
Gene L. Derr
Phyllis Hendricks-Denker
Lois Holeman-Collins
Alice Marie Rehmel-Iddles
Bettie June Rowe-McCammon
Eddie Mac Taylor

CLASS OF 1943
Betty Hunter-Heady
Robert Roll
Oscar L. Scamihorn
Ruth Scamihorn-Buck

CLASS OF 1944
Esther Barnett-Harding
Wilma Frederick-Rogers

CLASS OF 1945
June Hartsock-Anderson
Genevieve Heady-McLaren
Charles L. Rowe
Mary Lou Wible-Scamihorn

CLASS OF 1946
In Memory of
Paul "Gene" Bunch
Betty Orman-King

CLASS OF 1947
Frank E. Hartsock

CLASS OF 1948
Betty J. Hauser-Fenton
George Hunter

CLASS OF 1949
Arlen McDonald
Susie Smith-Regan

CLASS OF 1951
Barb Edmunds-VanGilder

CLASS OF 1952
Jack Taylor

CLASS OF 1954
Jim Campbell
Linda Ellis-Campbell
Barbara J. Harbaugh
Sheila Lemmons-VanVleck
Carolyn Roberts-Thorne
Mary Scarbrough-Kirkman
Robert White

CLASS OF 1955
Alberta M. Davis
Bob Davis
Larry Liddle

CLASS OF 1956
James A. Harbaugh
Rod Harbaugh
In Memory of
Dallas Hawkins
Jim Mullens
George Scamihorn
Billy Joe Swalls

CLASS OF 1958
Nancy McDonald-Jones

CLASS OF 1959
Mike Barron
Brent Clingerman
Mary L. Crable-Bilyeu
Donna Taylor-Clingerman
Sandy Walker-Smith

CLASS OF 1960
Marilyn Hughes-Clinkenbeard
Helen Copeland-Budd
Bekki Jones-Dyer
Sharon Mullens-Earl
Carolyn Sankey-Voegele

CLASS OF 1961
Roberta Ann Cesinger-Morlan
Ray Haas, M.D.
Carole Liston-Maguire
Pat "Patsy" Parker-Barron

CLASS OF 1962
Gary Secrest
Jerry Secrest

CLASS OF 1963
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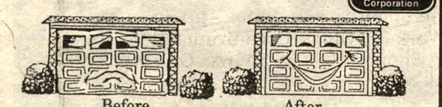

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Williams' career began at Blackhawk in 1957

By Tom Reck
Tribune-Star Sports Editor

Joe Williams, who's in his 21st year as the athletic director at Martinsville High School, has been involved with high school athletics since 1957. He got his start at Blackhawk High School.

He completed all of his requirements for graduation except for student teaching at Indiana State University in the spring of 1957 and was hired by Bill Ray, Blackhawk's principal, to coach and teach at Blackhawk that fall.

"I did my student teaching the following summer at University School after actually teaching and coaching for a year," Williams said.

He coached all of the sports — baseball, basketball and track — in grades seven through 12 for three years and did all of the scheduling until going to Carlisle for the 1960-61 season.

He recalls going to the township trustee's home each year to sit down and negotiate his contract. "I made $3,500 my first year and felt like I was filthy rich," he said.

"Looking back, I probably enjoyed my three years at Blackhawk as much as any. I was young and full of enthusiasm." Williams said his first team "won about four games" — more than the Chieftains had won in several seasons.

His last team won "13 or 14" games and lost to a good Terre Haute Schulte team in the sectional. "Schulte was really strong that year and we led them at the half," Williams said.

Three of the players on that 1959-60 team were Oscar Huntwork, Bob Morris and Jay Scamihorn. "We weren't very big. We might have had a couple of guys six feet or six one," he said.

"Our big rivals were Riley, Pimento and Prairie Creek — especially Riley. We always had real battles with the Cossacks. And I remember the stove in the corner of the gym at Prairie Creek. Dick Moats was the coach," he said.

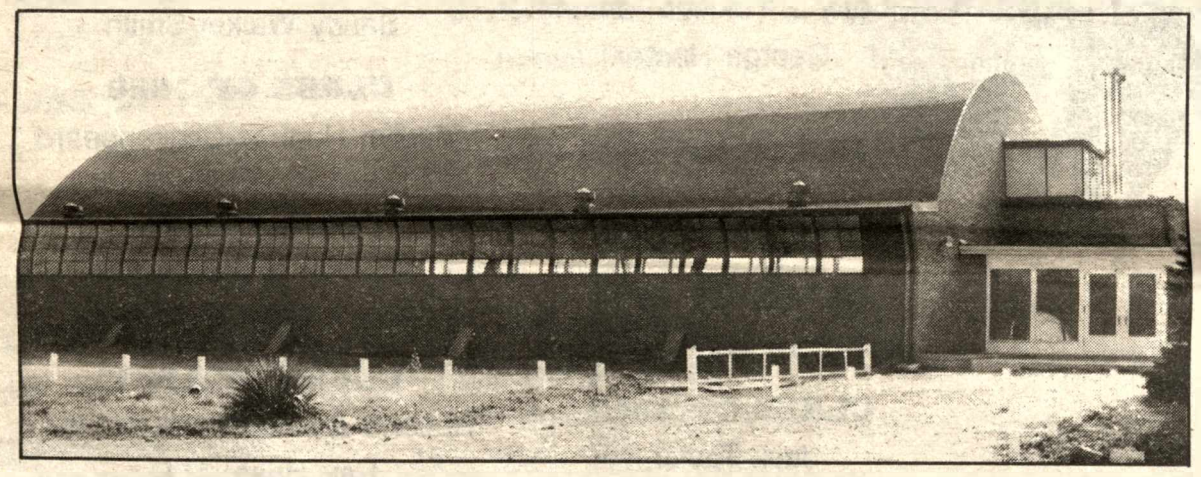
Most of the teams the Chieftains played in the 1950s and 1960s had more students than Blackhawk, recalled Williams, who came from a small school himself. He and his brother Tom both graduated from Onward High School.

The former coach attended Ball State for a year and spent four years in the U.S. Navy before enrolling at ISU. Joe Williams had his most successes at Carlisle, winning a Wabash Valley preliminary and a sectional at Sullivan in 1962.

"We lost to Jasper by three points in the regional and Jasper went on to lose a close game to Evansville Bosse in the semistate. Bosse won the state," he recalled.

After coaching at Batesville for six years, he was hired as the first full-time athletic director at Martinsville in 1970.

"Things are a lot different now," he said.



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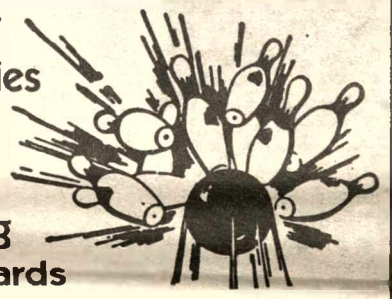

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Memories linger for Cottom

Blackhawk gets Riley's goat in 1933

By Andy Amey
Tribune-Star Sports Reporter

Dale Cottom still remembers Blackhawk's only Vigo County high school basketball championship team — and the night the Chieftains "got Riley's goat."

The 1933 season, when he and several of his teammates were seniors, was the only time Cottom can remember that Blackhawk kept the traveling trophy that was awarded to the county school with the best record. "That didn't include the city schools," Cottom pointed out.

Cottom, a six-footer, was the starting center for that team, which included forwards Paul Armstrong and Paul Payne, guards Ronald Shew and Gerald Armstrong and valuable reserves Max Greiner, Doyne Bennett, John Frederick, Harry Mauk and Herman Gettle. Milage Nesler was the coach, assisted by John Park.

"We won 13 in a row at one point," Cottom recalled recently. "I think defense was our strength, plus we had some good outside shooters."

Cottom and his classmates got an indication they could be pretty good after the end of the previous season.

"After the season was over, the school would have a class tournament," he explained. "It came down to the juniors and seniors — we were all juniors at the time — and the seniors were older and bigger than we were. But the juniors won."

One of the early highlights of the championship season was Blackhawk's visit to Riley.

"Blackhawk and Riley were always rivals, because everybody on both teams knew everybody else," Cottom pointed out. "While we were warming up, some of the people from Riley brought out a goat and led it around the floor. There was a sign on both sides that said, 'We're going to get Blackhawk's goat.'

"We won the game; I think the score was something like 34-28," Cottom continued. "So I guess we got *their* goat."

Riley did hand the Chieftains one of their few losses in the same season, that coming in a Wabash Valley Tourney preliminary, and Blackhawk lost in the semifinals of sectional play to Wiley. Ironically, Wiley then was defeated by Fontanet, a team that Blackhawk had defeated during the regular season, for the Beantowners' only sectional crown.

Cottom's biggest thrill from his Blackhawk days, however, came during his freshman season.

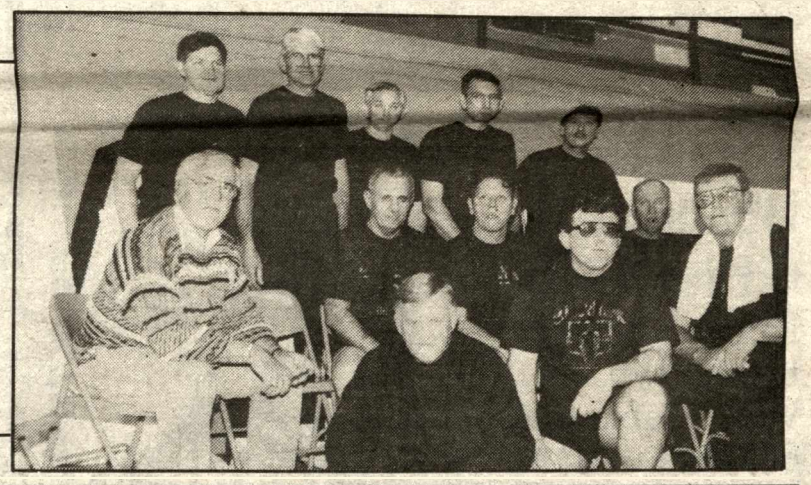
"I was a varsity substitute, and we were playing Otter Creek. Otter Creek was always pretty good, and this was one of their best teams," he remembered.

"I always practiced shooting from the side," Cottom continued. "It was a close game, and the coach sent me in and told me to set up on the side and the other guys would pass me the ball.

"I was a little bit scared, but I made the side shot and we beat Otter Creek," he said. "A couple of days later I went to the 'Y' with my brother to swim, and Coach Weir from Otter Creek was there. He saw me and said, 'There's the kid that beat us.' "

That championship season

Blackhawk's winning team poses with its trophy after winning the Vigo County Basketball Championship in 1933. The Chieftains that year consisted of (first row) Gerald Armstrong, Max Greiner, Doyne Bennett and John Frederick; (second row) Paul Payne, Dale Cottom and Harry Mauk; and (back row) Herman Gettle, Assistant Coach John Park, Paul Armstrong, Coach Milage Nesler and Ronald Shew.



Playing for the Blackhawk Chieftains during the Nostalgia Basketball Tournament in March were (kneeling) Oscar Huntwork, Pat Wiram and Jay Scamihorn; (seated) Coach Jack Crombie, Don Williams, Jim Harbaugh and Roland Baker; and (standing) Bob Modesitt, Jim Hendricks, Lee Trimmer, Don Lammey and Rod Harbaugh. People for each of Vigo County's former high schools — all 16 of 'em — participated in the popular tournament, which was conducted at West Vigo High School.

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Chieftains had their moments

Pleasant memories held by school grads

By Carl Jones
Special to The Tribune-Star

Blackhawk High School was a bit too small to have a rich tradition in basketball or in any other sport, but the Chieftans had their moments.

Perhaps their most pleasant moments occurred in 1935 in the sectional tournament played in the Terre Haute Wiley gymnasium.

In the tourney's first round, Blackhawk pulled a 19-18 upset victory over Terre Haute Gerstmeyer in a stirring overtime game. The Blackhawk coach that year was Lowell Yaw, and it's safe to say that his career peaked that night in 1935.

Blackhawk's celebration was short-lived, however. In the next round, the Chieftans were eliminated by a strong Honey Creek team by a 31-17 score.

The original Blackhawk gymnasium provided the home team with a built-in advantage because several posts were located on the edge of the playing floor — much to the chagrin of opposing teams.

But when Blackhawk's "new" gymnasium was constructed, it had a regular-sized floor and no posts.

Besides Yaw, other Blackhawk coaches included Edgar Liston, Milage Nesler, Lefty Kruzan, Bill Ray, Joe Williams, and Otis Sparks.

Leonard "Lefty" Richey, a Blackhawk alumnus, recalls the heated rivalry between Blackhawk and its closest neighbor, Riley.

"We really had some battles with them," Richey recalls. "Riley was our No. 1 rival, there's no doubt about that."

Richey had no idea how the series between Blackhawk and Riley came out, but he does have vivid memories of one special night when the two student bodies tried to upstage each other.

Riley students reportedly led a live goat into the gymnasium, and there was a sign hanging on the goat's back to the effect that "Riley has Blackhawk's goat."

It wasn't long after that before Blackhawk students led a live donkey around the edge of the floor and it, too, had a sign. As everyone knows, a donkey is sometimes called a jackass, so it shouldn't be too difficult or require too much imagination to figure out what was written on the sign that Blackhawk draped over the back of the donkey.

Keith Taylor, another Blackhawk alum who still resides in the area, pointed out that Blackhawk may not have had many tournament trophies, nor did he recall any overwhelming upsets the Chieftans pulled on more highly rated foes, but he adds, "We had fun, and that's the most important thing."

Indeed it is.

'25 line-up

Edgar Liston was the coach of this 1925 Blackhawk basketball team.

Sorry, Blackhawk Chieftains

Due to a computer breakdown, we were unable to use color art of the school on our front cover, as we have used on the other Remember sections. This was a last minute situation that we were unable to remedy and still get the section out on the scheduled date. We apologize, and hope you enjoy the rest of the Remember . . . Blackhawk section.

The Tribune-Star

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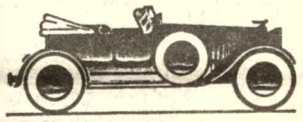

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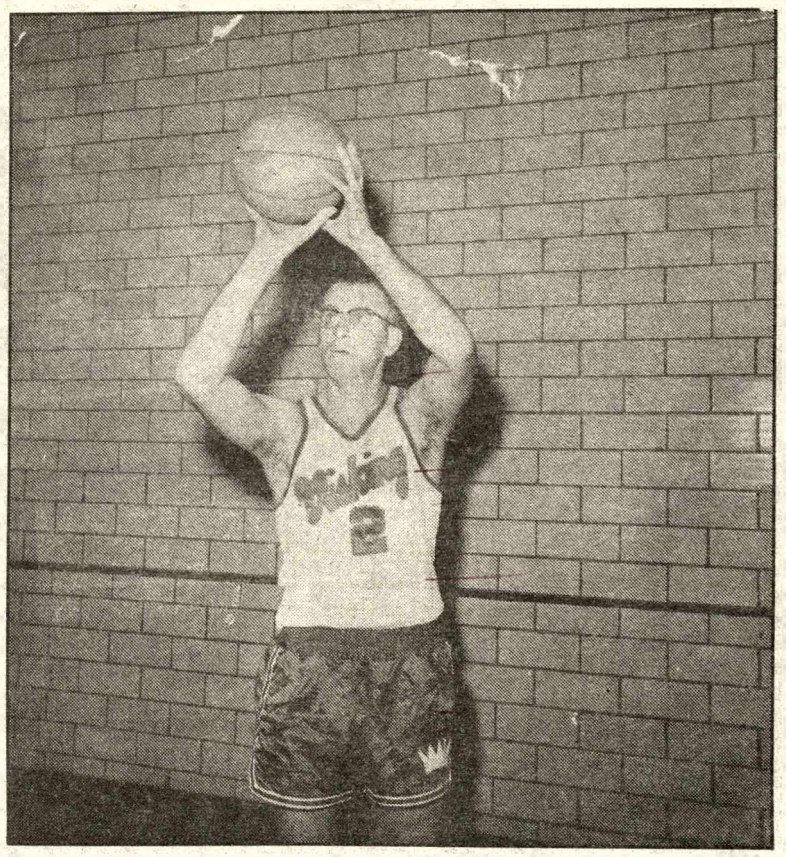
'46 grad gets a 'Bunch' of votes from his fellow BHS Chieftains

By Joey Bennett
Tribune-Star Sports Reporter



Gene Bunch was 6-foot-2, which is an average height for a basketball player today.

But back in the mid-1940s, when Bunch was a standout player for Blackhawk High School, he was a giant.

"They didn't have many tall players back then," recalls Bunch's wife, Ella. "They didn't promote all these big guys like they do today. He was pretty strong physically and he was quick in spite of his height. He was a good all-around athlete."

Bunch was voted as Blackhawk's best athlete in a recent poll, and his skills weren't limited to basketball.

"He was an avid bowler and he had a perfect game once," Ella said. "He was a pitcher on the baseball team, too. He liked sports of all kinds."

Bunch played on the varsity basketball team at Blackhawk for four years, leading the team in scoring his senior year — 1946 — with an average of "15 to 20" points per game, his wife said.

"I don't recall a lot of the exact details," Ella said, "but I do know that in his senior he played against Wiley and led for about three quarters of the game before they ended up losing. That was a good accomplishment for a small school like Blackhawk to compete with the big schools."

After high school, Bunch played for several independent teams around the Wabash Valley and once scored 41 points in a game against a team from West Terre Haute.

He took a job with Ethyl Visqueen and played for the company's softball team. He worked there for many years before passing away in 1977.

He and Ella have four children — Carol Andrew of Farmersburg, Cheryl Walters of Rockville, Danny Bunch of Rosedale and Sandra Bunch — and a total of 13 grandchildren. Not surprisingly, most of the grandkids also participate in sports.

"We are really a sports-oriented family," Ella said. "Gene was really hyper over sports and I think we all are."

Perhaps the most noteworthy of the grandchildren for area sports fans are Bob, Rhonda and Brett Andrew — Carol's children.

Carol married former Rockville basketball standout Glenn Andrew, currently the North Central boys basketball coach and a race car driver on the side, and the three younger Andrews have all had successful careers.

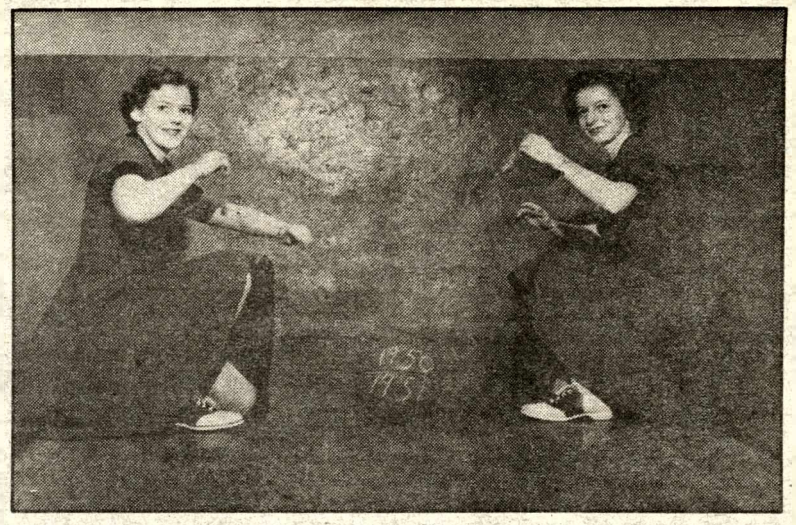
Bob was an outstanding basketball player at North Central and went on to play at Wabash College, while Rhonda excelled in many sports at North Centraland now plays center on the Taylor University basketball team.

Brett is a senior at North Central, and is being actively recruited by Division I schools. He is a 6-foot-4 guard who excels at the 3-point field goal, and had an outstanding year last winter.

As a junior, Andrew averaged 20.8 points epr game, as well as 7.8 assists, 7.6 rebounds and 2.9 steals. He was honorable mention on the United Press International all-state team last year, and earned first-team mention on the All-Sullivan County and All-Tri River Conference teams as well as making the all-sectional team.

He was named to the Hoosier Basketball Magazine first team all-state squad earlier this year.

"Gene would sure be proud of all these kids if he were around," Ella said. "He was very proud of Blackhawk High School and he really kept up with everything that happened down there."



Remember when?

Barbara and Carol practice leading the cheer section in the photo on top, taken during the 1950-51 school year. In the bottom photo, taken about the same time, is a girls' gym class. Answering the roll call were (first row) Norma Burdette, Barb Edmunds, Jewell Hunter, Rose Marie Ellis, Barbara Huffman, Julia Copland and Patty Coffee; (second row) Joan Cottom, Bonnie Scamihorn, Martha McLaughin, Shirley Burdette, Carol Rudisell, Alice Loveall and Carol Ray; and (third row) Rose Marie O'Hun, Mildred Shumaker, Charlotte Archer, Cora Lesseman, Deloris McGrew, Bernice Wild and Janet Liston.

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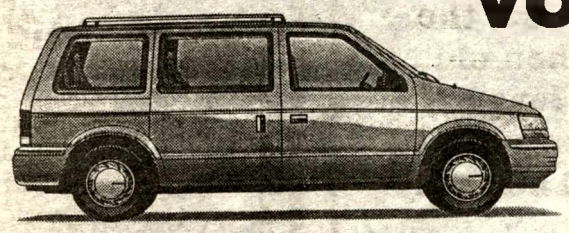

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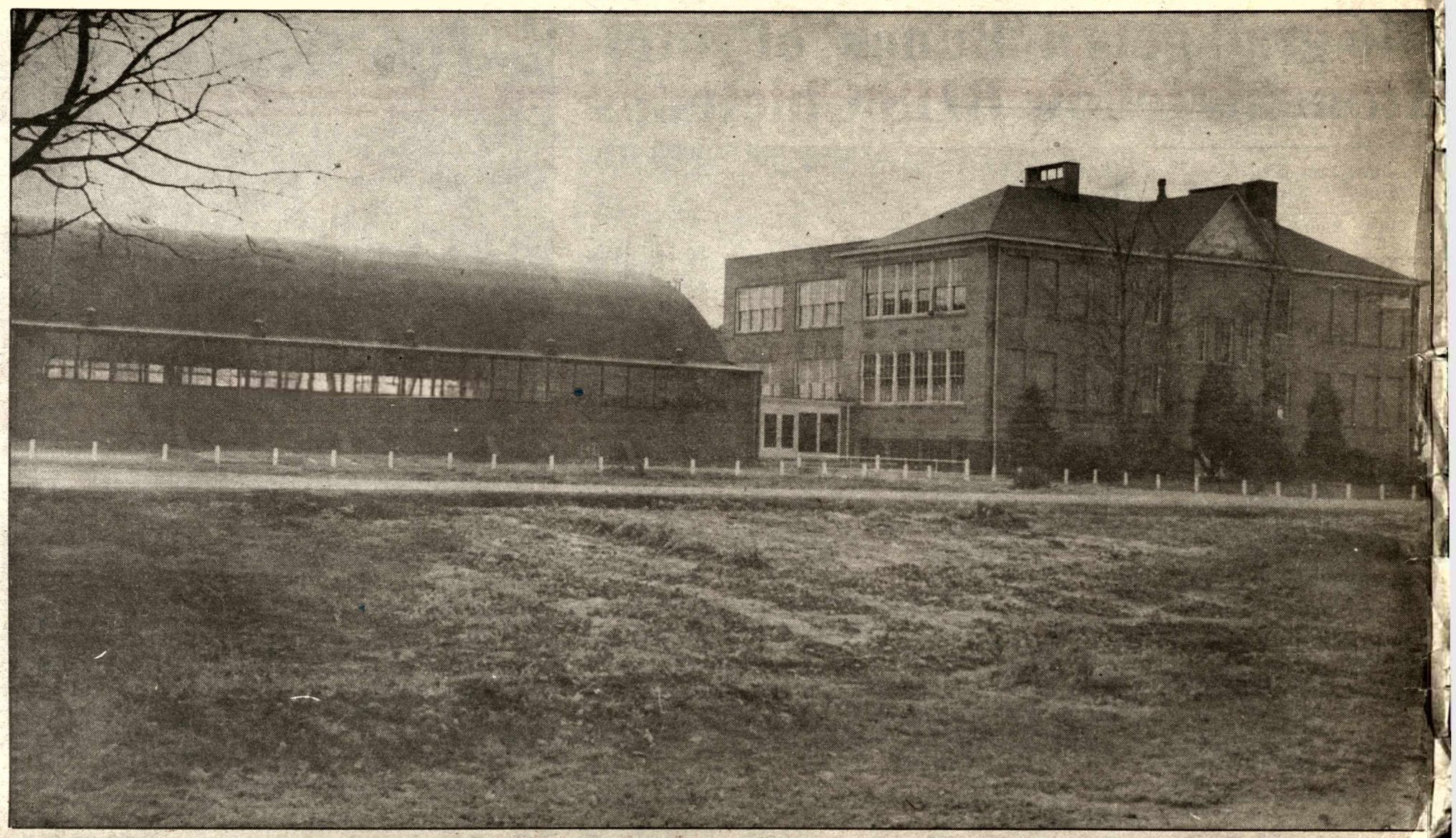

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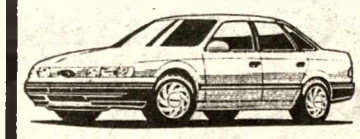

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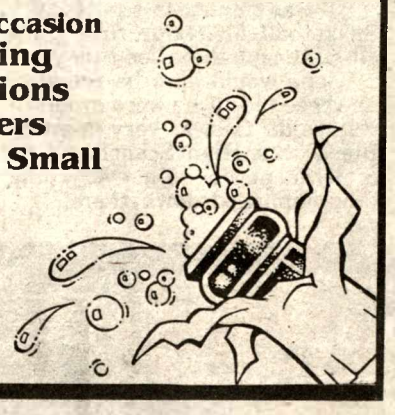

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